

Improving People's Lives

To: All Members of the Council

Bath and North East Somerset Councillors: Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, Alison Born, Shelley Bromley, Neil Butters, Vic Clarke, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Gerry Curran, Chris Dando, Jess David, Tom Davies, Sally Davis, Douglas Deacon, Winston Duguid, Mark Elliott, Michael Evans, Andrew Furse (Chairman), Kevin Guy, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Joel Hirst, Lucy Hodge, Duncan Hounsell, Shaun Hughes, Eleanor Jackson, Grant Johnson, Dr Kumar, Matt McCabe, Hal MacFie, Ruth Malloy, Paul May, Sarah Moore, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Michelle O'Doherty, Lisa O'Brien (Vice-Chair), Bharat Pankhania, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Manda Rigby, Dine Romero, Mark Roper, Richard Samuel, Bruce Shearn, Brian Simmons, Alastair Singleton, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Karen Walker, Sarah Warren, Karen Warrington, Andy Wait, Chris Watt, Ryan Wills, David Wood and Joanna Wright

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers
Press and Public

Dear Member

Council: Thursday 10th September 2020

Please find attached a **SUPPLEMENTARY DESPATCH**. This pack is in addition to the published agenda and is published in this form so the public can view these items. Councillors have already seen these documents.

Papers have been included for the following items:

AMENDMENTS PACK

This document contains the amendments which are expected to be moved at the Council meeting. It also contains a revised motion for item 9.

Yours sincerely

Jo Morrison
for Chief Executive

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COUNCIL MEETING – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2020

AMENDMENTS PACK

(accurate as at midday on 10th September 2020; could be subject to further change at the meeting)

07 - Planning Reform Consultations

Labour Group to move the following amendment:

2.1 Council resolves to:

- a) Agree the responses to the consultations set out in section 3 of this report and delegate authority to the Director of Development and Public Protections to formulate and submit more detailed responses, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Housing and Economic Development and in consultation with Group Leaders,
- b) Note the changes to Planning system which came into force on 1st September 2020, and
- c) Write to our local MPs, and encourage residents to do the same, asking them to intervene on this issue in support of this Council's responses to the consultation.**

08 – Policy Development & Scrutiny Annual report 2019-20

Liberal Democrat Amendment

The Council is asked to;

- 2.1 Note the work of the Policy Development & Scrutiny Panels, as set out in the Annual Report attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Council welcomes the opportunity to consider this annual PDS report and, in the interests of continuous improvement, requests an external peer review by the LGA of the Council's approach to scrutiny and policy development and the particular effectiveness of the current panels.**

09 - Parental Leave Policy

Labour Group to move this revised motion to replace the one included with published agenda:

Council notes:

- 1 That analysis of the 2019 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 35% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2018. Of the seats that were up for election in 2019, 35% went to women, up just 3 percentage points on 2015 when these seats were last contested.
- 2 As of October 2019, 27 councils have passed the LGA Labour Group's Parental Leave policy, and an additional 9 councils have their own parental leave policy in place.
- 3 In 2019, the LGA co-produced the 21st Century Councils Equalities Toolkit with MHCLG. The toolkit recommends that councils adopt a parental leave policy, and they link to the LGA Labour's Parental Leave policy as a model to adopt.

Council believes:

- 4 That the role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and that introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and is also a step to encourage existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors.
- 5 That parental leave must apply to parents regardless of their gender, and that it should also cover adoption leave to support those parents who choose to adopt.

Council therefore resolves:

- 6 To adopt the parental leave policy (attached) to give all councillors an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting.
- 7 To ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate.
- 8 To provide the leadership to support town and parish councils to adopt a similar approach.
- 9 **To request that the Constitution Working Group consider the matter of proxy voting or another form of remote voting for councillors who are on parental leave, and whether that should be extended to councillors absent for other reasons (e.g. long-term sickness), and to report back to Council by the next Annual Meeting with proposals, or reasons for not bringing proposals, to allow councillors to fulfil their voting rights while absent.**
- 10 **To request that the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel consider the matter of how the role of casework could be undertaken while a councillor is on parental leave or absent for other reasons (e.g. long-term sickness), and to report back to Council by the next Annual Meeting with proposals, or reasons for not bringing proposals.**

10 - Restoring Council Service Levels

Liberal Democrat Amendment

Council:

1. Recognises residents pay Council Tax to receive in return a range of **publicly** ~~publically~~ accessible services.
2. **Notes** ~~Believes~~ that during the **ongoing** Covid19 Pandemic many of these services have continued at reduced levels or they have been **provided in different ways.** ~~stopped altogether.~~ ~~The public have been tolerant and even supported these restrictions but increasingly they are losing patience with such reductions in service and restricted access.~~
3. Recognises **that the failure by the Government to fully reimburse Councils for Covid19-related costs and lost income means that difficult financial and service decisions will need to be made** following the Covid19 Pandemic. ~~the Council is a public servant and must honour its obligations to its residents as soon as possible.~~

Council therefore requests:

That this Council **notes the aspiration to restore** ~~commits to restoring~~ to pre-Covid19 Pandemic service levels **and asks the Cabinet to consider this in the forthcoming budget setting round.** ~~as a matter of urgency, all its outward facing services and that Scrutiny be asked to review this in due course.~~